NEW DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT DATA FOR THE PYGOPODID, *PARADELMA ORIENTALIS* (GÜNTHER, 1876). *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum 42(1): 212. 1997:-* Four specimens of *Paradelma orientalis* (QM transparency NR221-3) collected recently (4 Sept., 1996) in Eena State Forest (28°19'S 150°50'E) 20km WNW of Inglewood, SCQ extend the knowledge of the distribution and habitat preferences of this species. This locality is approximately 110km south of Dunmore State Forest, near Cecil Plains, SCQ (26°24'S, 151°01'E), the former southernmost known collection locality for the species (S. Wilson, QM, pers. comm.). The specimens were unremarkable morphologically, closely resembling the photographs in Cogger (1996) and Wilson & Knowles (1988). Snout-vent lengths were 154, 155, 156 and 172mm.

In Eena State Forest, three specimens were collected in *Eucalyptus crebra* and *E. microcarpa* open forest with a dense subcanopy dominated by *Callitris columellaris* and *Allocasuarina luehmannii* on loose sandy clay substrate at 28°19'S 150°50'E. The site had been silviculturally treated on three occasions between 1937 and 1973 and sections logged in 1971 (Inglewood DPI Forestry records). The remaining specimen was found in *A. luehamannii* closed forest with widely scattered *E. crebra* emergents on a similar substrate at 28°21'S 150°50'E. This site had been silviculturally treated in the 1930s and 1950s and partially logged in 1984 (Inglewood DPI Forestry records). In both sites, all individuals were found sheltering under thick slabs of *E. crebra* bark that had fallen from standing ringbarked trees.

P. orientalis is one of several species of reptiles from Queensland's Brigalow Biogeographic Region with special conservation 'rating'. It is treated as 'vulnerable' by McDonald et al., 1991; Cogger et al., 1993 and Queensland Nature Conservation Regulation 1994. Little is known about the species' biology and habitat preferences (Kluge, 1974; Jenkins, 1979; Shea, 1987; Cogger et al., 1993; Cogger, 1996). Previous published records suggested the species was confined to remnant *Acacia harpophylla* forest and eucalypt woodland with an understorey of *A. harpophylla* or sparse tussock grass ground vegetation on grey cracking soils (e.g., Shea, 1987; Cogger et al., 1993).

This range extension combined with the knowledge that *P. orientalis* appears to adapt to several soil and vegetation types indicate that the species is more widespread than supposed. Further, these records combined with recent observations in *Acacia falciformis* woodland on Boyne Island (23°50'S 150°24'E) (M. Fitzgerald, pers. comm.); on a sandstone rise in dry sclerophyll forest in Dunmore State Forest (S. Wilson, pers. comm.); in *Corymbia maculata* and *E. crebra* dominated open forest in Barakula State Forest (26°17'S 150°52'E) (D. Hannah, pers. comm.); and in mixed species open woodland with *Triodia mitchelli* dominated ground layer in the Chesterton Range, Charleville district (26°09'S 147°14'E) (C. Dollery, pers. comm.) suggest it may be more abundant than the published records indicate.

Whether the conservation status of *P. orientalis* should be modified requires further investigation.

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